

Homecoming proceeds despite cold snap



Mines beat Western State 24 to 7 in sub-freezing temperatures. See more Homecoming photos and stories on pages 6 and 7.

STEVEN WOOLDRIDGE / OREDIGGER

SDHC releases survey results

Benjamin Johnson
Staff Writer

A brief survey was recently sent out to CSM students by the Health Center and Student Development to determine what students need, or would like help with, in regard to health. Approximately 500 students participated in the survey.

Students chose which category of health related topics they would like to obtain more information about. The categories were, in order of highest interest: nutrition/healthy food choices/weight loss, balance (school, life)/time management, quality sleep/fatigue, stress management/anxiety, physical fitness/exercise, depression/suicide prevention, illness awareness and prevention, smoking cessation, women's health/men's health, managing responsibility/independence,

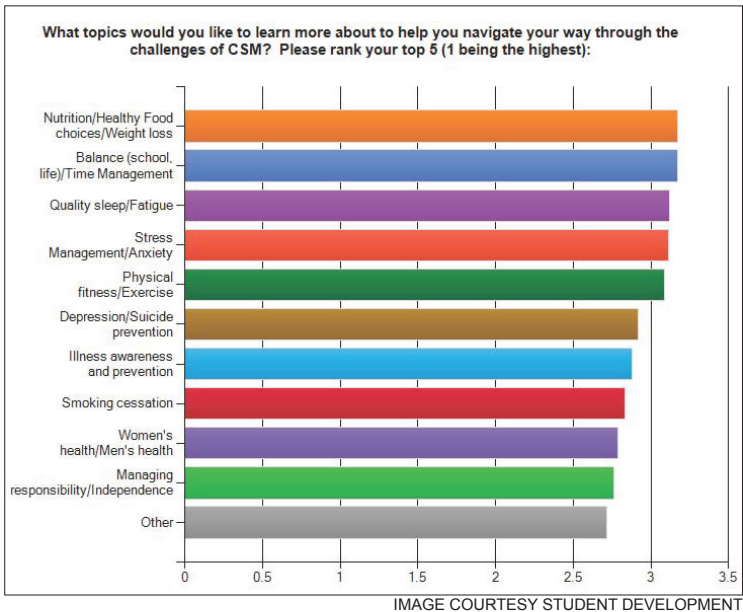
and other. There was very little difference in interest between the different categories, which will "make our job harder in determining how best to get students the information they need," said Ron Brummett, director of Student Development.

Now that the results have been gathered, Student Development will process the data and formulate a plan of how to meet the needs of students who are interested in receiving information about these various health topics. The second question on the survey asked students about the best way for them to receive health information including by email or a possible website that would include different health resources. Brummett said that the second question on the survey would "help meet the needs of students based off their interest."

Several events are already being hosted by the Health Center and Student Development to provide students with different opportunities to get involved and learn more about living healthy, balanced lives. In the spring there is Wellness Day, which has been located in the Student Recreation Center (SRC) for the past couple of years. Many people in the health industry come and provide students with resources including massages and body fat percentage testing. The Stress Free Zone during finals week is also in the SRC. This is offered so that students "can take a break from studying and just relax," said Brummett, "The focus has become much more recreational since moving into the Rec Center." Student Development also provides various presentations to different groups regarding health or other life enhancing topics and also has pamphlets that have information on many different health related subjects.

Both the Health Center's website and Student Development's website were redone over the summer and now include a podcast page that has links to past presentations that the department has given as well as links to podcasts from other organizations.

Brummett encouraged students to contact Student Development if they have any ideas of how the department can better distribute information or if they would like to host a presentation by a trained staff member for any on campus club or organization. He also wants people to remember, "Good health supports great academics."



An overseas guide to groundwater issues

Kevin Lock
Staff Writer

Starting off by saying, "What you're about to get is infotainment," Dr. Andrew Hughes set the tone of a relaxed, informative lecture. Dr. Hughes, of the British Geological Survey, Natural Environment Research Council, gave a great talk about groundwater hazards in the UK and, more specifically, about groundwater flooding.

Many lectures are presented with the assumption that everyone in the room has done prior research and has an understanding of the subject. Dr Hughes did a great job at presenting some technical knowledge while keeping the information accessible.

The presentation covered both the projects of the British geological survey and the general scope

of the survey's work. "We, [the British Geological Survey] collect data, store it, then encapsulate data and put it into models to help with decision making," explained Dr Hughes. The survey is only fifty percent funded by the British Government, so they do need to be able to find outside sources of funding. In an effort to maintain funding, the Survey does work for multiple water municipalities. By moving data from maps to models and then to forecasts, the data provided by the survey is very useful to governments on many levels.

The focus of Dr. Hughes's work has been on groundwater flooding within the UK. Groundwater flooding can be found in many places within the UK due to high water table levels and wet climate. Such events cause anywhere from 50 to 100 million Euros in damage (approximately 74 to 147 million dollars USD).

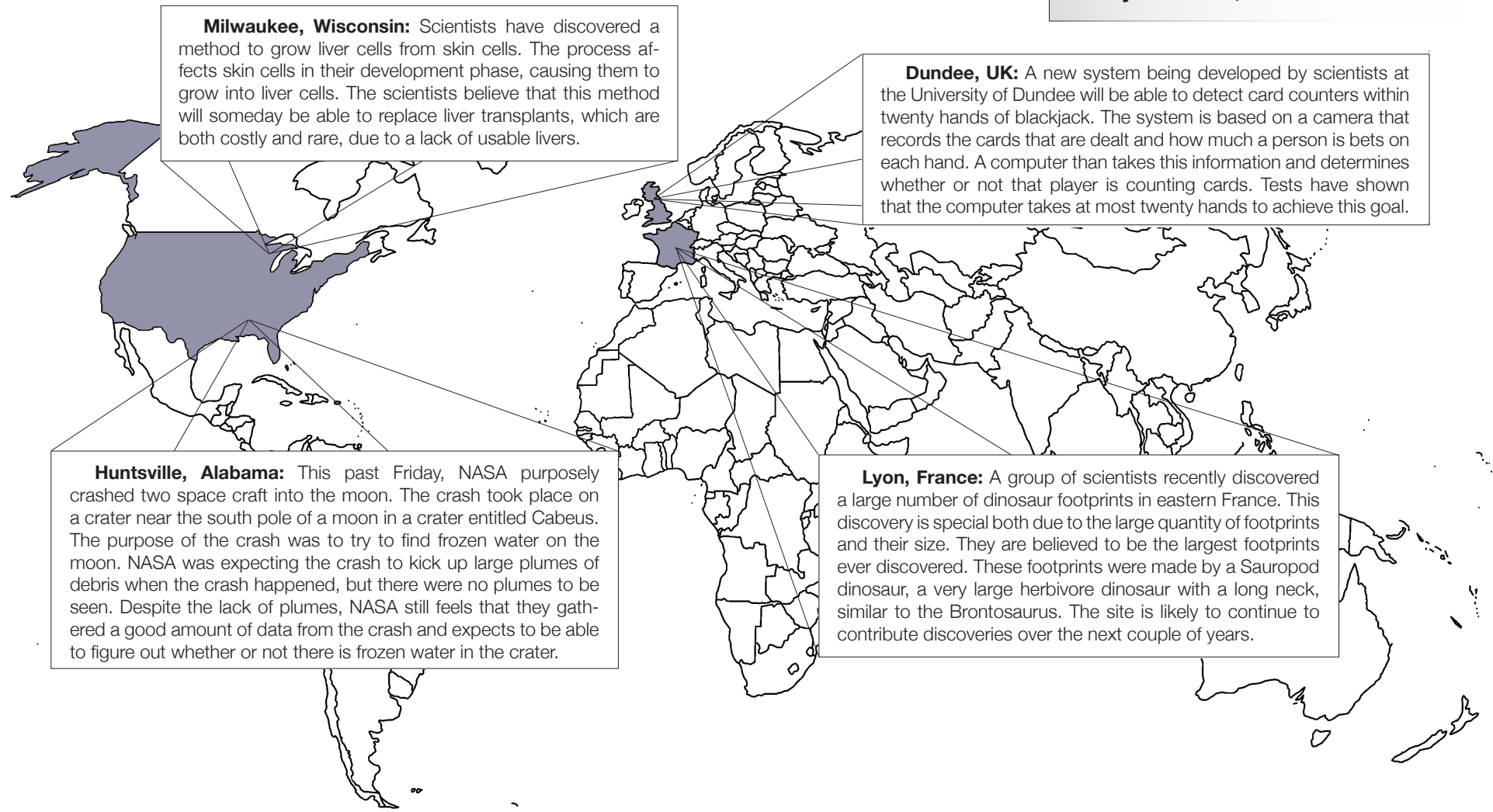


SEE VAN TUYL ON PAGE 3

KEVIN LOCK / OREDIGGER

Scientific discoveries this week

Zachary Sorenson, Staff Writer



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Headlines from around the world

Emily Trudell, Staff Writer

Michelle and Jim Bob Duggar, the hosts of the TLC show, **Eighteen Kids and Counting**, celebrated the birth of their first grandchild, a baby girl. The Duggars are expecting their nineteenth child in March.

President Barack Obama became the fourth president in United States history to win a **Nobel Peace Prize**. The president plans to travel to Oslo, Norway to accept the award, and will donate the 1.4 million dollars to charity.

Oz du Soleil, known by some as the **"Bra Man,"** has collected over 3,000 bras for women to donate to schools, churches, and homeless shelters.

NASA's planned rocket crash into the moon was declared a success, displacing enough dirt and dust for scientists to scan for water that could have been kicked up by the impact.

Tropical Storm Parma caused flooding and landslides in the Philippines. A reported 197 people were killed in flooding and landslides, 45 more were left injured, and 43 are missing, but numbers are expected to rise.

Five people were detained and accused of piracy off the coast of **Somalia**, after their ship fired on a French ship, mistaking it for a commercial vessel. No one was injured in the attack, and the pirates were detained one hour later.

Twenty six people were killed in **mine elevator accident** in the Hunan province of China, when two elevators carrying 31 people suffered brake failure. Mines throughout the province are currently being checked for safety, and the accident is under investigation.

A car carrying 50 kilograms of explosives was detonated in a Pakistani marketplace, killing 49 people, and injuring at least 90 more. This is reported to be the deadliest **suicide bombing** ever to take place in the area.

An **imperial throne** used by a Chinese emperor set a world record for most expensive piece of furniture ever sold at auction, selling for roughly 11 million dollars.

The rapper DeAndre Cortez Way, known as **Soulja Boy**, was arrested and charged with obstruction in Georgia after allegedly fleeing police. Georgia police responded to a loitering complaint.

A new study from Yale School of Medicine showed that an experimental **cocaine vaccine** can help cocaine addicts. The vaccine produces antibodies that inactivate cocaine as it enters the body, preventing the high.

Israeli Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu** announced that talks with the United States envoy to the Middle East were very useful and constructive. The U.S. envoy is currently working to restart the stalled talks between Israeli and Palestinian officials.



Local News

Halliburton Foundation Inc. made a \$35,000 gift to Colorado School of Mines that will support graduate and undergraduate students in the Geology and Geological Engineering Department and the Minority Engineering Program's outreach initiatives. Over the past three decades, Halliburton's support for Colorado School of Mines has totaled more than \$1.6 million.

Jen Schneider, assistant professor in Colorado School of Mines's Division of Liberal Arts and International Studies, has been selected to take part in the National Academy of Engineering's (NAE) first Frontiers of Engineering Education (FOEE) symposium.

Colorado School of Mines has been awarded \$90,000 by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) as part of \$500,000 in awards to six organizations that provide education and training within the mining industry.

Icy conditions caused roads to be closed all over Colorado on Saturday. There were several severe and fatal accidents due to iced-over roads.

A medical helicopter spotted a man who spent the night in freezing temperatures near Guanella Pass and airlifted him to a local hospital Sunday morning, according to 9 News.

The Denver Post reports that there are "spotty shortages" of the H1N1 vaccine, causing close to 200 clinic cancellations.

CSM hosts robotics convention BSO assists student groups in travel, logo usage

Jared Griffith
Staff Writer

Last week, a robotics seminar for professionals and students was held here on the Mines campus. Professionals in the fields of robotics and telecommunications met up in Ballroom D to discuss the development of robotics and the future of telecommunication for a variety of different uses. The conference, called NetRob '09, hosted by IFAC, IEEE, and the Robotics & Automation Society, discussed a wide variety of applications of networked robotics and the growing demand for educated minds in the field of technology.

The Oredigger was able to have a conversation about the workshop with one of the panelists, small business owner Dr. Alex Philp. The panelists were invited to the workshop as experts in the field of networked robotics and shared their knowledge of the most recent research in the field. His company has done a great deal of work on what are called UASs, or Unmanned Aerial Systems. Previously known as UAVs (V for Vehicle), UASs are becoming more and more important to the defense industry, and right now, the goal is to be able to control a large number of UASs in one area and have reliable control and feedback from each one.

Dr. Philp did not just talk about his personal work in robotics, he also shared the main goals of the panel and the workshop. Some of the other disciplines mentioned in the workshop were mining, construction, and exploration with robotics. He said that some of

the questions addressed by the panel were, "What do we mean by robot? How does autonomous technology apply to our world? How can all these systems work together?"

These questions are being addressed every day by researching organizations. As Dr. Philp pointed out, one of the main points addressed at the workshop, and one of the major reasons it was hosted at a college of engineering students, was that "challenges faced commercially and privately are complex problems," and in order to fix these problems, there must be a "team approach with the right people for the job."

In a world where technology is now linked to nearly every discipline, from mining to defense to search and rescue, the field of robotics can no longer rely on one-track minds to work in small teams and accomplish small tasks. Dr. Philp implied that there must be "an interdisciplinary approach to problems" and that improved communication is mandatory - getting "the right information to the right people at the right time." Communications are "moving beyond search - data finds you."

NetRob '09 intended to bring great minds of all sorts together to work on the rapidly advancing technology of networked robotics. The field has a need for students with skills in multiple areas of science, technology, engineering, and math in order to continue expanding at the current rate. The world is becoming more tightly knit, and it calls on the most skilled minds to keep it heading in the right direction.

Karlyn Adams
BSO President

The Board of Student Organizations (BSO) held their second meeting of the semester on Tuesday, October 6th. This meeting covered topics such as Travel Funds procedure and paperwork, ASCSM financial paperwork, and proper CSM logo usage. That said, two questions come to mind: what is the BSO, and what do I need to know about these topics?

BSO is the branch of our student government that supports and represents student organizations on campus. BSO contributes to the organization of the Mines Leadership Summit, oversees the Student Organization Tier Structure system and Student Calendar, and holds monthly meetings to provide student organizations with pertinent information and perform normal BSO business. It is the duty of BSO to bring to ASCSM issues and amendments in interest of student organizations, so every BSO meeting offers an open forum for student organizations to raise issues and concerns. Though meetings are required for some organizations, every-

one is welcome. Tuesday's meeting was focused on administrative information for student organizations. Ann Lott, ASCSM Treasurer, reviewed the ASCSM funding reimbursement forms and John Bristow, ASCSM Parliamentarian, reviewed the required sections of organization bylaws. Information was also presented in response to questions about logo use and rights from the September BSO meeting. Cathy Daniels from the Controllers Office discussed the legal requirements of traveling for an organization on campus. If any organization travels more than 50 miles one way for any event they must fill out a Travel Authorization form (TA) to be approved **before** (10 business days before to be exact) they travel. If an organization intends on using their club funds to finance any travel they will also need to fill out a Travel Expense

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form (TE) immediately upon return. Lisa Goberis, Associate Director of Auxiliary Services and Esther Henry, Associate Le-

If any organization travels more than 50 miles one way for any event they must fill out a Travel Authorization form to be approved before they travel.

gal Council discussed the requirements associated with using the CSM logos. Any time any group wants to use the CSM logo on merchandise, either for internal club use or for resale, they need to have the design approved (usually done through a licensed vendor) prior to printing.

In other news, there is a new member in the Student Activities Office! Travis Smith will be overseeing student organizations and Greek life, among other things, as the new Associate Director of Student Activities. He is excited to be stepping into this role and keeps an open door policy.

Meeting details, handouts, and links can be found in the files section of the Student Calendar at www.mines.famundo.com/files. Many organization and departmental events can be found on the Student Calendar; all BSO meetings are posted there as well. If your organization has any questions concerning the BSO, Tier Structure, or would like to gain access to post events on the Famundo Student Calendar, please contact us at csm.bso@gmail.com.

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Van Tuyl talks about groundwater flooding

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Hughes defined groundwater flooding as, "Any place that groundwater is making a nuisance of itself by rising above the normal groundwater levels." This may occur in valleys or along the edges of riverbanks. Many of these areas where groundwater flooding occurs were avoided because of

the strong historical folk memory in multiple areas of the UK. However, with growing populations, the UK faces many of the same challenges seen on the Front Range with new developments being built in places that have high geological risk factors.

To meet the challenges of new development in high-risk areas, the British Geological Survey is modeling these flooding risks to better understand the phenome-

non of groundwater flooding and its relationship with surface water flooding. By mapping current floods and using folk memory, they have developed highly accurate models to map both surface and groundwater flooding risks. Dr. Hughes's team found that surface water flooding mitigation sometimes contributes to and exacerbate groundwater-flooding risks.

The main difficulty of mapping groundwater flooding is that most ground-

water maps use timestamps of weeks or months but with flooding daily and possibly hourly timestamps are necessary to obtain accurate models. The work of the British Geological Survey is on the cutting edge of groundwater technology and modeling. Dr Hughes was able to present a very 'infotaining' speech.

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Lecture discusses impacts of global climate change

Kaneesa Felton
Staff Writer

What is the weather like today? Is it sunny and breezy, or wet and dreary? Moreover, what time of the year is it? Is it summer and snowing or is it winter and 84 degrees Fahrenheit? Now, those last two cases presented may seem a bit extreme, but the truth is, climate change is happening.

Take, for instance, the weather in Golden over the past few weeks. A few weeks ago, temperatures were beautiful, around 70-80 degrees Fahrenheit. Then, the very next day, the cold settled in, almost skipping fall altogether and head-

ing straight into winter. This past week, we saw one gorgeous day, the next day we had snow.

These dramatic weather changes are not something that can be overlooked. Action must be taken to determine what is causing these changes, and how to prevent even further changes.

David M. Anderson, branch chief of NOAA paleoclimatology program at the National Climatic Data Center in Boulder, presented in this week's Van Tuyl lecture what climate change actually is and how it impacts our world today and in the future.

What is climate? "It's the average, long-term weather," said An-

derson. "Temperature, precipitation, and pressure are key variables in determining climate." Before modern technological advances, climate was hard to predict. Now, however, scientists and meteorologists are able to predict future climate and weather changes using computer model simulations.

Moreover, according to these simulations, the global temperature can rise up to 4-8 degrees Fahrenheit by the end of the century. For the US, the rise is predicted to be 8-11 degrees Fahrenheit at the high end and 2 degrees Fahrenheit at the low. What can these changes mean for the world?

Well, changes have already be-

gun to be seen. In Colorado, for instance, there has been a massive pine beetle outbreak on the lodgepole trees. This is because winters haven't quite been as cold, so the pine beetles are surviving. Droughts during the summer stress the trees, so they are more susceptible to the pine beetle's attacks.

Another impact on Colorado is snowfall. "We know that warming will cause the snowline to be higher and a shorter winter season," said Anderson. Nevertheless, two things Colorado can't be certain about are precipitation and human affects.

Because of Colorado's unique position in the United States, the mid latitude is drying, which could possibly cause bigger snowfall events to the north. In addition, skiers from other areas that are losing snow could possibly come to Colorado, but this is not a certainty.

Another example of warm-weather impacts is Sperry Glacier in Montana. It no longer exists; it has melted away. The same thing is occurring in the Arctic. The sea ice has retreated, and the warm temperatures are even melting the permafrost, which changes the carbon balance and increases ero-

sion of the coastlines.

Greenland has also seen the loss of glaciers, especially to the southeast, which in 2007 lost a total of 118 cubic kilometers. The impact of glaciers and sea ice melting could cause a sea level rise of 2-4 feet, potentially putting the south coast of Florida underwater.

Now, one major controversial issue of climate change is greenhouse gas emissions. The main reason why this idea has not caught on well is that people don't want to be blamed for the destruction of their planet. However, the sad truth is, carbon dioxide and carbon levels have risen in the past century by a considerable amount, and they will keep rising unless people can stop using cars and burning fossil fuels. "Human forces do affect the temperature more than natural ones," explains Anderson.

Global climate change is occurring right now. There are uncertainties as to what might happen, such as effects on precipitation and on ecosystems and environments. "[We are] just starting to see [these changes]," says Anderson. Moreover, if nothing is done to stop it, then the Earth will no longer be our home.

Impact of humans on the geochemical landscape

Kevin Barry
Staff Writer

Marty Goldhaber, President of the Geochemical Society and representative from USGS, gave his lecture last Thursday. In his lecture, Goldhaber explained geochemistry's origin, humans' growing geologic impact, and some possible implications of our impact.

Geochemistry had its origins with Vladimir Vernadsky and was originally called "biogeochemistry." Vernadsky said, "Man under our eyes is becoming a mighty and ever growing geological force." The growing impact of humans on the landscape and what repercussions may come of these impacts were Vernadsky's primary reasons for developing this field.

Geochemistry, as Goldhaber went on to describe, is a holistic scientific discipline. Goldhaber quoted John Muir to help explain what he meant, "When we try to examine anything by itself, we find that it is hitched to everything else in the universe." As humankind continues to shape the landscape through mining, road creation, concentration of minerals, and damming rivers, it has far-reaching impacts on the environment, some unforeseen.

Population increases and densities around the world exacerbate this problem. Human population had a steady growth from Pre-Stone Age to the Industrial Revolution, with the Black Death as the only hiccup. With the advent of the Industrial

Revolution, however, population experienced exponential growth. "Since I was born, human population has almost tripled," remarked Goldhaber, "and it will continue to rise for some time and even accelerate."

With such rapid growth, humanity has also had exponential growth in resource demand. Goldhaber expounded on this growth; "Humans are now moving

"People get all aggravated when a 3000-year-old tree is cut down, but hardly anyone bats an eyelash when a 300,000-year-old soil is destroyed to put in a golf course."

ten times more earth than all the natural processes combined." This human activity alters the chemical concentrations in the environment to potentially dangerous levels.

However, Goldhaber said some of this goes unnoticed; "People get all aggravated when a 3000-year-old tree is cut down, but hardly anyone bats an eyelash when a 300,000-year-old soil is destroyed to put in a golf course." Goldhaber questions what impact this may have on humanity. According to Aldo Leopold, our future does not look bright: "The reaction of land to occupancy determines the nature and duration of civilization."

The primary topic of the lecture

was the extraordinarily high concentrations of Chromium in the Sacramento Valley in California. Chromium (III) is a very stable form of chromium and is a micronutrient. It is generally found at 37 ppm in soil in the US. However, in the Sacramento Valley, it can be as high as 6000 ppm. These concentrations are due to large amounts of ultra-mafic rock surrounding the valley. It was eroded into the valley primarily by the periods of glaciations in the mountains and by hydraulic mining for placer gold mining, which eroded 3.7 billion tons. To make things worse, chromium (III) is not the only natural form. Chromium (VI), a carcinogen, is also present.

The only known naturally-occurring oxidation process of chromium is a very slow reaction with manganese, which can be accelerated greatly by certain microorganisms. These microorganisms are very pH dependent. At a lower pH, they produce exponentially more chromium (VI). The Sacramento Valley has prime growing land, resulting in a large influx of pH-lowering fertilizers. Thus, according to Goldhaber, "Applying fertilizer causes an increase in Chromium (VI) in water." This water is used for irrigation and drinking. It has come very close to the national limit for toxicity of water. Apart from chromium, Goldhaber also mentioned the lingering lead from lead-based paints and leaded-gasoline and the high concentrations of zinc left by tires as they wear out adding to the problem.

Engineering Seminar focuses on vision

Zachary Sorenson
Staff Writer

Tom Wolf, Chief Integration Officer at Molson Coors Brewing company, spoke at last Thursday's Engineering Seminar on the topic of "Inspiring a Shared Vision." Wolf, who is a director at Borders and Xcel Energy and has past experience with PepsiCo and Eurodisney, focused his talk on the changes Molson Coors has undergone in his time with the company.

According to Wolf, there were 5 phases in the growth of Coors – having a case for change, identifying and fixing problems, achieving and solidifying progress, leveraging and growing the business, and sustaining and leveraging again. These phases addressed a problem caused by lack of diversity at Coors.

"[When I came to Coors], no amount of the the Coors family money [was] going to save this thing," Wolf explained. There was no diversity, which hurt Coors. "[Lack of diversity] is like weaving a blanket with one thread - you can't do it." To combat this, Wolf hired new workers and let some others go.

Wolf also discussed the importance of focus with a company. The belief that trying ones best is good enough causes a lack of focus.

"Do your best, but you have to get something done," Wolf noted. He explained that this includes challenging yourself and developing new ideas.

Another problem attributed to the company's lack of focus was that workers were unclear about how well the company was doing. Wolf solved this problem by holding quarterly meetings. "You gotta let people know what the scorecard looks like," Wolf explained.

Wolf ended his speech with advice for the audience. In order to develop good teams you have to make sure the members like each other, he explained. "You don't develop trust [with other team members] unless you know them, and you don't want to know them if you don't like them."

Wolf hoped his experiences would help companies in similar situations as Coors. Wolf's explanation of the transformation of Coors is applicable to most businesses: "It was never about the money, it was about laying the path so value could be created."



KEVIN BARRY / OREDIGGER

Students socialize over tea and coffee

Jared Griffith
Staff Writer

Mines is a culturally diverse school and one place where this diversity shines is the Office of International Programs, which hosts all sorts of events to share the wealth of ethnic traditions with the students on campus.

A new event, now hosted monthly, is the International Tea

and Coffee Hour. The first of these themed tea parties was hosted the morning of Wednesday, September 30. This Indonesian



JARED GRIFFITH / OREDIGGER

themed snack and drink breakfast gave participants the chance to experience a bit of life from Indonesia, offering sumptuous samples of snacks, tea, and coffee to the sound of modern Indonesian music and decorations of traditional clothing and dolls.

The host, Mirna Matjik, clearly spent a great deal of time preparing for her Tea and Coffee Hour, having decorated the area with batiks, clothes with a unique dye pattern, and dolls

from her home country. She not only made delicious warm tea and coffee as the name of the event suggested, but she took the time to prepare sweets and savory snacks. Another part of her culture that was shared was a holiday known as "Batik Day," on October

2, where everybody in Indonesia or anybody else who happens to own batik clothing wears it all day.

Pam Blome, librarian at the Arthur Lakes library, attended this event. She heard about the event through the What's Happening announcement E-mail and decided to bring a friend along. She values the aspect of cultural awareness that events like this gives students,

but said that, "The problem with most things is that everybody's busy and they don't take the time to gain the benefit."

The International Office would like to see more people attend these events. They try to make them informal so that, as Assistant Director Alyda Morosco said, "Anybody could drop in... stop by, have some tea or coffee and get to know the person from whichever country."

More students might come as they become aware of the delicious food and drinks they are missing out on. As Blome said, "Free food tends to attract people, and the food is wonderful!"

The International Tea and Coffee Hour takes place at 9:00AM on the last Wednesday of every month. The next one will be on October 28 and is planned to be Malaysian themed. More information on these events can be found at oredig.us/tea.

Anybody could drop in... stop by, have some tea or coffee and get to know the person from whichever country.

The fast, the furious, and the Beetle

Eric Lusky
Staff Writer

CSM is a school filled with thriving and growing clubs. One which has flown under the radar until just recently is the CSM Racing Club. This club currently has 52 members and is trying hard to get more participants and increase the number and variety of events they do.

The main purpose of the racing club is, obviously, racing. Currently the club is involved in the AutoX Racing Series. At these events, cars show up and speed around a track to see who makes the best time. The cars are divided into different classes to make it fairly even. The Racing Club have to wait until the winter season to race again, however, since the AutoX Racing series is over.

At the final AutoX event of the past season, the Mines team had 3 cars racing, the first of which was a Jaguar X-Type driven by T.J. Wells. In four runs, the Jag's fastest time was 47.105 seconds. Aside from the Jaguar, the club was also racing a BMW 325i, driven by Azlan Sharifudin. Sharifudin managed to drive his BMW fairly well, and place a time of 44.669 seconds. The final, and

most interesting, vehicle the racing club entered into the event was a 1960 Volkswagen Beetle, with a few small alterations. This Beetle, driven by Robert Urban, did surprisingly well, and placed a lap time of 45.888 seconds. Aside from being shockingly fast, the Beetle also held the record for

on cars, and teach new members how to make simple repairs and service their vehicles. Club member Sharifudin is actually working on an engine rebuild right now, and requesting the help of other club members, with or without experience.

Aside from working on Sharifudin's car, the club is actually looking into buying a car for the entire club to race and work on. Treasurer Gerald Hau said, "We're looking into buying something for around \$1500; preferably a manual car with rear wheel drive. Right now we're hoping to find something like a Mazda MX5 Miata, or maybe



ERIC LUSSKY / OREDIGGER

being the only car at the event to finish a lap backwards. After spinning out on the last corner, Urban decided to just keep going with the car facing the wrong direction.

Although AutoX is currently the main focus of the racing club, they are also hoping to get into some other types of events. According to club president Robert Gill, they are looking into finding other track events. Aside from this, the racing club also wants to try go-kart racing during the off season. Some club members are also interested in drag racing.

Believe it or not, racing is not the only thing the CSM Racing Club does. They also like to work

even a Beetle!" When the racing club isn't driving, or working on cars, they love to spend time just talking about cars, or watching the favorite TV show of many members, *Top Gear*.

The CSM Racing Club is a rapidly growing organization that is always looking for new members. They are constantly becoming more successful on the track, and looking for new events. Much of their time is also spent in the garage, where members are always learning more and more about cars. If you're interested in joining, simply attend one of the weekly meetings held in the Digger Den every Monday at 5:30 PM.



Comcast: Big bad Bell or benefactor?

Ian Littman, Tech Break Columnist

Comcast has been busy lately trying to be a tech-savvy provider. They've been trying everything, as long as it doesn't mean laying new cable. Comcast brought DNS root servers onto their network a few weeks ago, adding an important part of the internet's infrastructure to their own framework. Just last week, they re-launched their internet speed test site (which determines a computer's upload and download speeds) and started sponsoring similar tests on popular destinations such as BroadbandReports.com and Speed-Test.net.

Comcast has also launched a new program in the Denver area which helps to ensure that their customers aren't unknowingly launching spam and viruses onto the web. This adds to their long-time inclusion of McAfee's internet security application with internet connections.

In the area of customer service, Comcast was the first large provider to have an employee on

Twitter to help solve customers' problems. It now has a small army of folks who are quite good at this job. For those who don't use the twitter service, Comcast's online customer service chat program works reasonably well, and their phone reps aren't bad. In phone service customer support rankings, Comcast fares quite well.

Despite all their efforts, Comcast has plenty of areas in which they could improve. Residential internet service has an expensive entry price if you don't get cable TV service (\$55 and up), and the provider's 250 gigabyte per month soft cap on data transfer doesn't get any better if you pay \$117 per month, plus modem rental (\$3 per month now, \$5 per month eventually), for their top-end package.

In Comcast's defense, they're using a shared system which could buckle under excessive traffic. However, this is also a failing of the company since they don't have a single foot of fiber-to-home infrastructure. Because of this,

their internet tiers are increasingly top-heavy, emphasizing high download speed but neglecting to cater to those who see the internet as a two-way street. While better than many of their competitors, even Comcast's test-market \$380 business cable connection is outpaced on the upload side by Verizon's \$60 residential fiber tier.

The company's customer service by normal channels has a ways to go. TV customer service (and the TV customer experience in general) is lacking compared with alternatives that don't use coaxial cable to bring services into the home. Worse, when you use Comcast's tech support chat feature, chances are good that you'll get a tech who can't solve the problem you're having.

For those who don't use Comcast and live in a major city, it's probably only a matter of time before Comcast decides to buy up such large cable operators as Time Warner Cable and Charter. The corporation has successfully

lobbied to lift the national cap that previously allowed cable operators to control a maximum of 30% of the pay-TV market, paving the way for large-scale acquisitions. Comcast has also purchased various content networks and owns high-profile TV channels, such as Versus.

On one side of the argument, Comcast paid for all of its own equipment, so they owe nothing to the government (unlike telephone companies with their taxpayer-subsidized copper build-ups). However, it's unsettling to see a company working to clear out regulations when that company is one of a very limited number of options for internet and TV service. The worry is that Comcast will convince government officials that it (or "vibrant market competition") can police itself, and lower quality of service while raising prices across the board.

Don't get me wrong; I'd rather get service from a company who is actively expanding its pres-

ence as a top-tier intent service provider, churning out innovative services to all its customers over a relatively short introductory period, and isn't forcing internet users into a punitive data transfer capping scheme to protect its cable TV revenues. However, the communications market isn't quite so competitive, even in population-dense areas such as the Denver metro, that I'm comfortable trading possible customer improvements due to supply-side economies of scale for the potential of one company owning both my communications pipe and the information that flows through it. That sounds a bit too much like the pre-breakup Bell system, but with coaxial cable instead of copper pairs.

Have comments or questions on this article? Head over to <http://oredigger.net>. See <http://minesblog.com/techbreak> where you can see a comprehensive set of pictures detailing my Windows 7 Launch Party pack.

Chili tasting heats up cold Homecoming

Zachary Sorenson
Staff Writer

Despite the cold weather, the second annual “Knock Your Boots Off Beer Tasting & Chili Cook-Off” in downtown Golden had very strong attendance. As a part of the homecoming package this year, the event did a good job of connecting Mines students with the Golden community. Long lines plagued the event, but each tasting of chili and beer made the wait worthwhile. Various tents were scattered across the area behind Foss Liquor, with a diverse range of mild and spicy chili.

Cooks braved the cold weather to cook up chili in two different categories - green or red. Within these categories, there were a wide variety of options, from vegetarian and pumpkin chili, to yak chili from the Sherpa House restaurant.

Beer booths also dotted the landscape. For a little more money, patrons could taste several different beers to compliment their chili. The beer booths included companies such as Dale's Pale Ale, Coor's, and to a few local restaurants. If tasting wasn't enough, there was a concession stand that sold full cups of beer.

There were several attractions to distract people from just wandering from tent to tent tasting chilis. These included clever t-shirts and giant inflatables. One particularly interesting distraction was a pumpkin-flavored chili served out of a pumpkin.

I closed off the event by tasting last year's winning chili. I found the chili to be quite delicious, but I wouldn't say it was the best chili served at the event. Overall, the event was very enjoyable despite the cold weather, and I look forward to attending it again next year.



Chilly chili servers and tasters take advantage of the event on Saturday, October 10. Despite arctic conditions, many people came out to sample the wares of local chili cookers.



ALL PHOTOS TIM WEILERT / OREDIGGER

Homecoming football game and floats



The Orediggers posted a 24-7 win over the Western State Mountaineers for Saturday's game. Fans of both teams braved the cold to support their teams.



Homecoming Queen and Beast winners were announced during halftime, as well as the winner of best float. Congratulations to Kelley Commeford and Alex Hermes, Queen and Beast, and Sigma Kappa and Phi Gamma Delta.



During the half-time festivities, several alumni were inducted into the Hall of Fame, including: Dayven Johnson, John Simpson, Eric Stellmon, Rob Zimmerman, Kim Harden, George Puls III, and Dean Stoughton.



ALL PHOTOS STEVEN WOOLDRIDGE / OREDIGGER

Cross country team runs harder than ever

Blain Savage
Staff Writer

The cross country team is at the top of their game. The men won their first two meets and the women took second in the first meet and seventh in the second. No one can deny that this team wants the best. Coach Art Siemers argued that the team's best attribute is their work ethic. Some of the men run 100 miles a week during the school year and 80 miles a week during the summer. With this hard work, the cross country team has a great shot of going to national championships this year and doing very well.

"We do the right things," said Siemers. "We work on the aerobic and anaerobic system so we can run our best at the end of the season." Despite Siemers best efforts to push the team, he does not have to try very hard. "The guys and girls put the pressure on themselves," said Siemers. To

improve, Siemers asserted, "The women need to move their fourth and fifth runners up. For the men it is to stay healthy going into the national championship." However, with positives always comes some problems. Siemers biggest fear is that they will "overdo it and get hurt." He works continuously to ensure this does not happen.

All this effort has produced results. According to Siemers, "If you do a standard win-loss record, the men would be 31-0 and the women would be 25-7." At the first meet, the UCCS Rust Buster, Sydney Laws took 1st with a time of 14:53 in a 4K race, Marie Patton took 3rd, Hannah Cooling took 12th, Bonnie Cleveland took 19th, and Briana Suppes took 28th. On the men's side, Ben Zywicki took 1st with a time of 19:08 in a 6K race, Nate Hatleback took 5th, Aaron Swift took 9th, Adam Bodnar took 10th, and Jacques Anandale took 12th.

Sequins and mouthguards

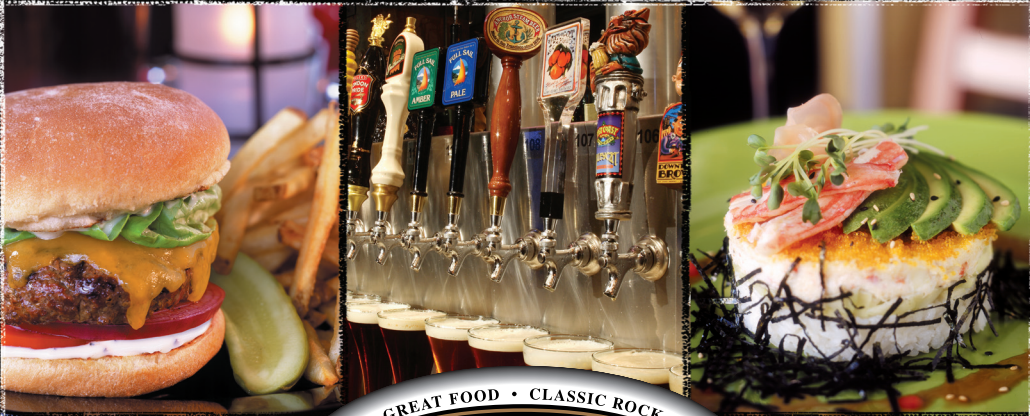
CSM Womens Rugby takes on the Denver Black Ice sporting only their finest prom dresses and formal wear.



ALL PHOTOS STEVEN WOOLDRIDGE / OREDIGGER



CSM volleyball team wins three consecutive games against Adams State, Western State and CSU- Pueblo.



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CSM professor recognized for work with oil shale

Jared Walters
Staff Writer

As global energy consumption rises, natural resources are becoming more and more difficult to efficiently extract and utilize. As a result, Mines has become a center for research and development of oil shale technology around the world. The Center for Oil Shale Technology and Research (COSTAR) is a research center funded by Shell, Exxon-Mobil, and Total, and is directed by Jeremy Boak here at Mines. Boak remembered how he got to this point, "When I came to Mines 4 years ago, I worked on oil shale, among many other things. Now, it's involved in almost everything that I do." Oil shale is a sedimentary rock that contains significant amounts of kerogen, a complex mix of organic compounds which can be processed to produce hydrocarbons. The process involves heating the oil shale to temperatures above 300°C. This causes the shale to fracture and the kerogen to decompose into a gas. This gas condenses into natural gas, synthetic crude oil, and some solid residue. The oil can then be collected and exported. However, Boak pointed out, "There are many environmental issues with the extraction process." One of the newer methods of extraction involves heating the oil shale underground. Boak noticed, "This process may require a lot of water because the heating may be done electrically, and water is used to con-

dense steam in power plants. In addition, water may be used to remove potential contaminants from underground after heating utilizes water circulation to prevent heat from escaping." Boak continued, "Water use will be an issue, but there is a lot we can do to reduce how much we have to use."

Even after companies have purchased water to use, permission is still needed from the federal government agencies to use significant amounts in their processing. "They have to ask permission to use their own water," Boak pointed out with a chuckle. In addition to the water issue,

"Only 3.5 to 5 barrels of crude oil can be produced for every barrel of energy required for the process."

Boak stated that "only 3.5 to 5 barrels of crude oil can be produced for every barrel of energy required for the process." Back when oil resources were first being developed, oil wells used to be able to produce up to 100 barrels of oil per barrel of energy used.

True, this is a less efficient method of producing energy, but in Boak's point of view, "This technology must be developed since we are going to be using hydrocarbons for a long time." Even though alternative energy is becoming more and more ef-

ficient, it will take a long time to develop it to a point where it can completely satisfy human demands.

This technology also happens to be particularly important in Colorado. According to Boak, "Colorado alone is estimated to have 50% of the United State's oil shale resources." COSTAR's research here at Mines focuses on the geology, stratigraphy, and sedimentology of oil shale. All this is, according to Boak, "To better understand what the environments were like to form the oil shale so we can apply it to the global scale."

In addition to the research being done here by COSTAR, Mines also hosts a global Oil Shale Symposium annually. Representatives from around the world travel here to discuss developments and future prospects of this valuable resource. The 29th symposium is to be held in the Green Center over fall break from October 19 through the 23.

"Oil shale is a big resource, it is estimated that there are 1.5 trillion barrels of oil in oil shale in the states of Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado," said Boak. "Only 1.2 trillion barrels of oil have been produced world-wide to this day." With crude oil sources steadily diminishing worldwide, oil shale could certainly prove to be a very valuable additional source of oil. This is a very important research project going on at Mines, and provides yet another prospect for a bright future of the oil industry.

Recent alumni can be benefactors too

Erin Stephens
Staff Writer

Though he has not had a building or room named after him, Justin Chichester is a model of a successful Mines graduate. Not only has he made it through the fateful graduation ceremony, he has continued to have a tremendous impact on the school. Chichester has donated \$1000 dollars to the school.

Chichester graduated in 2007 with a bachelor's degree and again in 2008 with a master's degree. He is no older than most of Mines' current graduate students and still remains connected to the campus. "My involvement in the student government and the Board of Trustees gave me a firsthand view of how important alumni support is to the continuing excellence of the school," said Chichester.

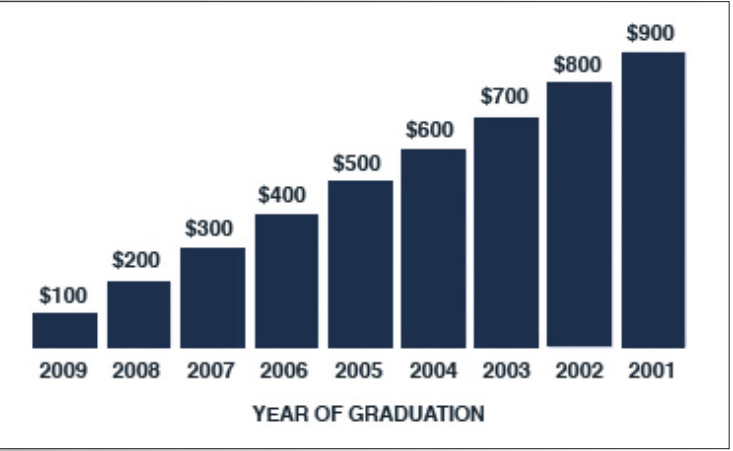
Donations from alumni come in all shapes and sizes, but rarely does a graduate, only one year out, donate at the level of the true President's Council. The President's Council is a group of loyal supporters who donate at least \$1000 dollars to the school every year. However, recently graduated alumni are able to join the Council with donations of \$100 for every year out.

Chichester's generous gift squarely places him among the

most loyal of supporters. Though he could have joined the Council for one tenth of his actual donation, Chichester valued the school enough to contribute the full \$1000. "An excellent job with ExxonMobil right out of school and a mindset that believes giving back is important and will help the next generation of Mines students is what inspired my recent contribution," stated Chichester.

Only the help of illustrious alumni like Chichester allows the Mines we know to function. Everything on campus, from the construction of buildings to the shoveling of snow to the beaker in the chemistry lab, stems from generosity like Chichester's. He asserted, "In light of the current economy and the magnitude (or lack thereof) of state support, alumni giving is critical in the near term." As a school, Mines has dodged the worst of the economic blow with the help of its supporters.

Though many supporters choose to designate their gifts to specific departments, Chichester has allowed the school to allocate his gift to the areas of greatest need. Every student that logs on to a campus computer utilizes these voluntary gifts. Generosity like his is not often found and even less recognized, so we thank Chichester for his continued support.



MCS department changing to stay competitive

Zachary Sorenson
Staff Writer

The Mathematics and Computer Science (MCS) department at the Colorado School of Mines currently has over two hundred undergraduate students and nearly fifty graduate students. With degree options of Computational and Applied Mathematics, Computer Science, and Statistics, the department is steadily growing and has great hope for the future.

Some of the recent growth comes from recent changes. One change is the addition of required capstone courses for both the statistics and computational and applied mathematics options. Director of Undergraduate Studies Gus Greivel thinks these new courses benefit students once they graduate. "[The courses] really focus the tools of math to concrete, real problems," Greivel explained.

The structure and substance of field session courses has also been modified. The field session course for applied math and statistics students is a proof-based course. This course introduces students to methods of analyzing problems while shying away from techniques for simply solving problems. Greivel claimed that this, "address[es] that disconnect [between analyzing and

solving problems] and make[s] sure that everyone is on the same page." In contrast, the computer science field session focuses on teamwork; a real-world client provides a project for a team of students to work on. The goal of the class is to accomplish the needs of the client.

The new field session courses, along with the whole MCS curriculum, help students to develop diverse skills which give them several options when they graduate from Mines. MCS Department Head Dinesh Mehta described the most important of these skills as, "the ability to reason and do things quantitatively." This wide skill set prepares students to move on once they graduate. According to Mehta, "Jobs go beyond the classical jobs of going on to be teachers." Recent MCS graduates have been hired by companies as diverse as BP and IBM.

The MCS department is working towards some big changes for the future. One such change is the possible inclusion of a basic computer science course in the first year curriculum for students. Mehta thinks this course would serve an important goal. "It [will] get students off to a start in computer science without immediately starting them with a program language... there is a lot more to computer science



SARA POST / OREDIGGER

than just programming."

While the recent addition of a statistics degree option has caused the department to grow, they wish to grow further. This would allow more diverse electives to be offered. Greivel hopes this will happen soon. "[We want] more students who are curious about pursuing a math degree," he said. "I'm trying to change one mind at a time, and so should you."

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Vegetarian quiche good, even for meat eaters

Neelha Mudigonda
Content Manager

For those of you, who can't make it through a meal without meat, try out this recipe. Vegetarianism isn't all that bad. I was never a fan of egg-based dishes, but ever since I tried this quiche, my opinion of eggs has changed. If you mess it up once, which I tend to do a lot, try it again; don't give up, it'll be worth it. Just make sure you try out this recipe when you have an hour or two to spare; this is not a quick meal you can make before you start studying for an exam.

- Ingredients:
- 1 (9 inch) unbaked pastry shell
 - 1 1/2 cups chopped onion
 - 1 medium green pepper - chopped
 - 2 tomatoes - chopped
 - 1/2 cup chopped zucchini
 - 1/2 cup sliced fresh mushrooms
 - About 30 leaves of spinach
 - 2 tablespoons butter
 - 1/2 teaspoon salt
 - 1/4 teaspoon pepper
 - cinnamon powder, enough

so you can taste it

- 5 eggs
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese

Note: You can replace the vegetables in the recipe with whichever you like.

Directions:

Line the pastry shell with a double thickness of heavy-duty foil. Bake at 450 degrees F for 5 minutes.

Remove foil; bake 5 minutes longer. Reduce heat to 350 degrees F.

In a skillet, sauté the onion, green pepper, tomatoes, zucchini, and mushrooms in butter. Add the salt, pepper and cinnamon; mix well. Spoon into crust.

In a bowl, beat eggs. Add the milk and cheese; mix well.

Pour over vegetables. Bake for 40-45 minutes or until a knife inserted near the center comes out clean. Let stand for 5 minutes before cutting.

Clean up the mess (you know you made one), and enjoy!

This isn't a traditional college-student recipe, but it's something to try when you're feeling like eating something fancy.

Fall is here with New Belgium's "Hoptober"

Kevin Lock
Staff Writer

Fall is upon us, and that means it's time to put away those summertime beers and crack open an autumn-inspired seasonal brew. Hoptober, from New Belgium Brewing in Fort Collins, is just one of many refreshing fall brews.

At \$7.99 a six pack and 6% alcohol by volume, this beer is good, but in my opinion it is not one of New Belgium's best. The name Hoptober is somewhat misleading as the beer starts hoppy but ends with a sweet malty flavor. Fellow beer lover Ross Davis felt that it was "smooth and subtle with a lingering malty flavor but it isn't very hoppy for something with a name like Hoptober." The flavors are light and that may be the main factor as to why I was somewhat disappointed with this beer, the first sip is bold but after that it seems to lose its luster.

I feel that while brewing this beer New Belgium may have tried to do too much and the flavors may have begun to cancel each other out. There are five different types of hops and

four types of malts that go into creating Hoptober. The brewers have said, "Pale and wheat malt are mashed with rye and oats to create a medium-bodied ale with a creamy mouth feel. [Then] Centennial, Cascade, Sterling Willamette, and Glacier hops form a bonfire of citrus notes, fruity cheers, and a bold finale." I agree with the creamy mouth feel of the beer along with the citrus notes; however I don't find this beer particularly fruity or bold. The finish is much more malty and sweet than the label would lead you to believe.

This beer may be a good way to become acquainted with hoppy beers.

This beer may be a good way to become acquainted with hoppy beers. However I am personally a fan of bitter, hoppy beers, so I feel as though I had some preconceptions of the flavor prior to sampling this brew. I felt as though something named Hoptober would be rather close to the IPA family, but it is classified as blonde ale. It is a clear golden color with

a thick white head and has a pleasant flowery aroma that hints toward the sweet malty flavors to come. After approaching this beer as a blonde, rather than a bold IPA, its slight hoppy flavor and increased drinkability are welcomed with open arms.

I did not find this beer to be one of my favorites, so I asked around to see what some others thought of it and I found that many did find Hoptober to be an exciting beer with great flavors. "You know the kind of beer that tingles the back of your tongue and makes your taste-buds go sham-WoW, well this is it!" said fellow taster Bob Beach.

The front of the bottle depicts people at a party dancing around a bonfire while hula-hooping and riding unicycles. I must say that if I ever found myself at a party similar to that, this would be a fitting beer. Hoptober isn't what you'd expect, but if you just kick back, relax, and allow yourself to be open to new things, good time and good beer are to be found within New Belgium's new seasonal Hoptober.



KEVIN LOCK / OREDIGGER

A little taste of Thailand comes to Boulder

Sarah McMurray
Staff Writer

When most of us think of traveling, we think of leaving the place where we are, which is currently Colorado, for me. We may seek out local attractions or travel to the other side of the world in search of new experiences and new cultures. But for many students, 'here' is the strange and exotic destination. We Americans are their 'foreigners,' with our sometimes unintelligible dry humor and a directness bordering on effrontery.

From a certain perspective, one may wonder why these international students have chosen to come here. After all (with a few outgoing and notable exceptions), when you look around a group of students meeting socially, you often notice them sitting by nationality -- Indians with groups of Indians, Thai with groups of Thai, Chinese with groups of Chinese, etc. It's important to realize though that these students aren't on a two-week vacation. They may not get to return home for a year or more at a time, and the local nationality community brings a sense of comfort, a relief from a loneliness that is hard to escape from in this foreign country.

But there's another, more unfortunate reason why many students may gravitate toward their particular ethnic groups. Peerapong Kiat-

tisaksri, or Pong, the newly elected president of the International Student Council, recently explained that he and many of his other fellow Thai students would love to have more American friends. What's holding them back is the fear, whether real or imagined, that Americans don't want to speak to them because of their poor English. They might want to improve their English, Pong said, but they can't because they are afraid to talk to, and thereby annoy, native English speakers. This fear hurts their progress, and the cycle keeps them stuck with poor English, speaking only their native tongue to their fellow compatriots.

Recently though, I had my linguistic tables turned on me. On Saturday, October 3, I had the opportunity to attend the Thai Student Association Colorado Sports Day. The event took place at Colorado University at Boulder and was a full day of sports, food, and entertainment. Attending were Thai students from all over the region, as well as some students who had already graduated but stayed in the area.

The day began with soccer, basketball, and chairball competitions between the various college teams present. I know what you are

thinking, "What is chairball?" (Unless you're Thai, then you already know, don't you?) My thoughts exactly when Pong told me I should play it. Since I try to accept things before thinking them through, I agreed. Basically, chairball is like a strange version of basketball for girls. Rather than use a traditional net, a girl stands on a chair holding a round laundry basket. A volleyball is passed down the court, not dribbled or hit. Once a girl catches the ball, she can't run anymore, she must pass to a teammate. Once close enough to the laundry basket, a girl throws the ball toward it, and her teammate tries to catch the volleyball in the basket. My job was blocker of the opposing team's basket. I have to say, we dominated. But not because of me. My team was really good! Those girls were shooting volleyballs into laundry baskets like crazy.

Lunch consisted of pizza, Kao pad kra pao (Thai basil friend rice), and Tao suan topped with salty whipped coconut milk for dessert. The Tao suan looked like gooeey corn, but was actually a yellow bean "jello." Not realizing the coconut milk was salty, I took too much.... Of course no one told me it was salty until I noticed it myself and said, "This dessert is really salty!" Not surprising, I guess. One thing Pong was very clear about is that "Asians are very indirect." What he can't tell me is why.

The competition portion of the day concluded with a game that

had no name (the very concept of which I find baffling). The Thai students referred to it only as a crazy game, and Pong (exercising his new presidential rights, no doubt) has since named it "Eating Funny Marathon Game." It was a type of food-related relay race. The first task looked to me to be the hardest. Hutthapong Yoosook, or Mink, was chosen for it. What he had to do was lie on the ground and blow a pile of flour off a paper plate. Five quarters lay under the flour. He had to identify which was the Colorado quarter and grab it with his mouth. Once a member of the team completed his or her portion of the re-

lay, they had to run back to the beginning to tag a teammate to run out and do their part. Nate Tippimanchai stuffed pizza in his mouth. Ronnayut Busaba, or Es, inhaled a banana. Piya Dechongkit, or Neng, ate his two cake rolls kind of slowly. He said his mouth was dry. Jirapha Skulsang-junr, or Fah, picked up peanuts with a plastic spoon in her mouth and carried them to the next station, where Virunda Srisurayothin, or Ning, picked up a ping pong ball using chopsticks, and carried it to the final paper plate. It was nearly a photo-finish. Ning had the ball there first, but it rolled off the plate, creating a critical delay that caused the Mines team to come in second. Too bad!

The evening rounded off with a large buffet of Thai dishes for dinner, all topped with chilies in fish sauce and lime; and karaoke singing to Thai pop music.

Most of the day, I had no idea what was going on or what anyone was saying. There was one other American there, but he was fluent in Thai. We did speak briefly though, and he commented that if he closed his eyes, he felt as if he were back in Thailand. While I've never been to Thailand, I knew what he meant. I had been feeling it too.

It wasn't just a language difference, but a cultural one. "That's so Thai," my fellow American would say of the food centered game, of the noise level, or the way students started jabbering nonsense into the microphone before anything else was set up at all (I didn't know first-hand it was nonsense, but everyone refused to translate it for me because it was of such little importance).

It was strange for me to feel like such an alien in my own country all day. But by the time we were all in the car riding home, my Thai companions started opening their English up to me a bit more. We discussed things like what a "glute" was, the difference between "lion" and "lie on," and the proper pronunciation of the word "mayonnaise."



Minds at Mines

Epic space movies

Roby Brost
Staff Writer

On any given day, Mines students and citizens of Golden alike can look into the dark at Mount Zion and see the “M” glowing in all of its glory. For several nights last week, students turned their gaze to the “M” and did not see a letter, but a rocket ship! Not to be confused with a declaration of World Space Week, this whimsical change announced to all that cared to look that this year, the Mines 2009 homecoming theme was “Space Blasters.” Also indicative of homecoming weekend on the beautiful Mines campus were students in glow-in-the-dark space-themed t-shirts, space-themed floats, and even the MAC showing of Transformers II. Whether it is rockets or robots, aliens or spaceships, or even the age old battle between Star Wars or Star Trek, the human fascination with space brings about some great movies. While it was a hard choice for many, and some probably considered that epic line, “I’m sorry, Dave. I’m afraid I can’t do that,” Minds at Mines wanted to know: what is your favorite space movie?



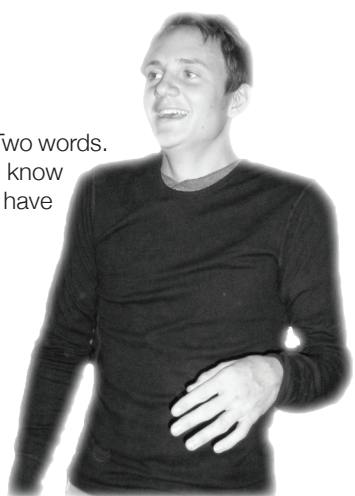
“I like Space Balls. Because of the plaid and the giant helmet. It’s just really funny.”
Aaron Cowles

“Although I grew up a Trekkie, I think that I have to go with the Star Wars trilogy. The original, because there’s just something magical about it, whereas Star Trek is just so plausible. I mean every time I watch it, I’m like, okay that could happen. So definitely, I would have to go with Star Wars.”
Echo



“I’d have to say Star Wars. Probably because it is the most epic series of movies of all time. I mean, Jedi. You can’t get any better than Jedi. So, Star Wars would have to be my favorite space themed movie. In fact, I probably watched number six two weeks ago.”
Alyson Beck

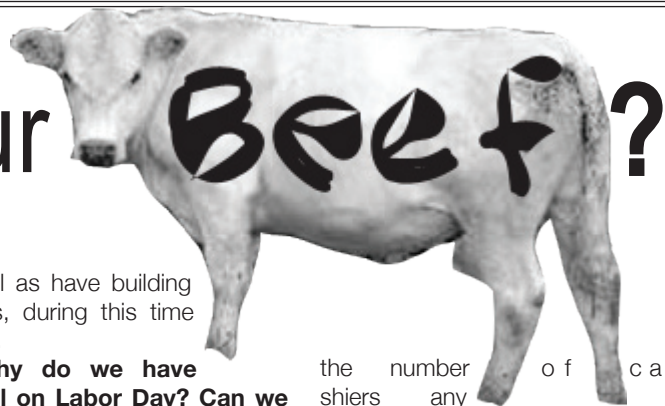
“Favorite space movie? Star Wars. Two words. Han Solo. A better reason? Han Solo. I know it sounds weird, but I would probably have like thirty of his children...”
Jack Crockett



“My favorite space movie would have to be Space Balls. One, because it’s a Mel Brooks film, and two, it is hilarious. It’s better than Star Wars because it’s funny.”
Karla Peabody

PHOTOS ROBY BROST / OREDIGGER

What’s your Beef?



Jaime Thorpe
Student Body President

“Put soy milk in the Slate Cafe.”

Good news! I went and talked to the management, and they said that all you have to do is ask someone who works there and they will get the soy milk for you. They keep it stored away to keep it cold. Additionally, there is a comment box up in the Slate Cafe for any other concerns or requests you may have pertaining to their menu.

“Student fees apply for taking one credit hour over the summer - not cool.”

For summer & field sessions, mandatory fees are charged starting at one credit hour. For Fall and Spring semester all mandatory fees are charged starting at four credit hours. The reasoning behind charging mandatory fees for one credit hour in the summer was based on requests from the students, so that we can use the Recreation Center and Health Center,

as well as have building access, during this time period.

“Why do we have school on Labor Day? Can we get it changed?”

A few years ago, back when Fall Break was only 1 day off of school, there was a vote on Trailhead for students to choose whether they wanted to have 2 days for Fall Break or 1 day for Fall Break and 1 day for Labor Day. The results indicated that students would prefer to have the 2 days off for Fall Break rather than getting off for Labor Day.

“The cashier needs more help early in the semester - the line shouldn’t be long all day.”

In past years, the line at the Cashier’s Office would go out the doors and up the sidewalk. Thus, the lines have significantly decreased because staffing was increased to the maximum number possible. They can only take money from inside the secure booths, so it isn’t possible to increase

the number of cashiers any further. They did recently implement a kiosk where people can check their account balance on Trailhead and pay by credit card online, which did help to shorten the lines. The bottom line is that the Cashier’s Office is always on the lookout for ways to streamline the payment process, and they suggest that the best way to avoid the lines is to show up early in the morning, and to make the line go faster please know your account balance in advance. The next generation of payment options will be free automatic check transfer, which may be implemented as soon as the spring semester! The Cashier’s Office will notify students on more details in the future.

Please leave further questions by commenting on the article at the website, oredigger.net.

The transformation of industry

JT Foss
Staff Writer

Flash back to the early 1900’s, when Henry Ford came out with the first mass-production car. Our infrastructure was largely undeveloped and for lower and middle class families, having a job meant survival. And having a job, in the growing urban metropolis, meant working on a manufacturing line.

We endured grueling conditions, and with our earnings, we could pay for little more than food, housing, and clothes on our backs.

Yet, America in general was moving forward at an alarming pace in terms of industry, and our military and scientific sectors were making giant steps.

Wars were fought with the blood of millions of soldiers, and housing and transportation was built on the backs of the proletariat.

Now look at modern society - light rails, microwaves, genetically engineered corn. We are so much more efficient at survival that we have time for more non-essential tasks.

As living creatures, humans create solutions for their naturally occurring problems and desires. We have developed a world in which practically any desire, want, or need can be satisfied with a monetary purchase.

War has become far more sophisticated... it’s not as simple as tribal land disputes. Now that maniacs in Iran might have nuclear weapons, and if we don’t employ precise and careful diplomacy while we observe all the established rules of the higher-order world governance (Geneva convention, NATO, US foreign policy), we could all end up dead in a matter of minutes.

Terrifying or beautiful? Yes, we live much closer to the brink of apocalypse than we used to, but the potential of such extinction is many times more improbable due to the increasing sophistication of global interaction.

My, how our problems have evolved. From the bubonic plague to tuberculosis to H1N1, as we have grown, our problems have become far more minor, sensitive, and usually, treatable. Overpopulation? Global warming? Very sensitive issues that can’t be fixed through the brute force of determination or engineering. And, for crying out loud, we don’t even actually know that global warming is a problem.

This means society is becoming more art and science-based than industry based. It’s subtle but evident.

SEE THE REST OF THIS ARTICLE ONLINE AT OREDIGGER.NET

Tim’s two cents

Why can’t we be friends?

Tim Weilert
Content Manager

I will be the first to admit: I’ve shared my fair share of complaints about governing bodies (whether it’s politicians or just campus security). However, I’m going to play devil’s advocate this week: maybe the groups we’ve demonized do more than we give them credit for.

Example 1: The Board of Student Organizations. While I have not personally had many dealings with the BSO, I can imagine that they’ve got a tough job. Mines prides itself as being a campus with an excruciatingly high amount of clubs, and someone has to keep all the ducks lined up. With the introduction of the tier system last year there was uproar (even from members of this very newspaper). However, I feel what we’ve seen is

not calculated manipulation or unspeakable evil, but simply growing pains.

Example 2: Public Safety. I feel that *The Oredigger* and campus safety may have started off on the wrong foot. We’ve published countless complaints and run negative stories. Stop and think about a campus without Public Safety. Golden is fortunate in that the crime rate here is lower than, say, Aurora or Five Points, and that is in part due to the combined efforts of campus security and the Golden Police. Furthermore, we want to create an open dialogue where people can be open and honest about safety while still remaining respectful.

Example 3: Faculty / Board Decisions. I’ve heard quite a few people complain about the proposed core curriculum changes this past week. However, I didn’t

see any of these complainers at the ASCSM meeting when Wendy Harrison made her presentation. The honest truth here: *The Oredigger*, ASCSM, and everyone else can try to educate and inform, but it appears that at a certain level people refuse to accept change or show up to inform themselves. The Faculty Senate, Undergraduate Council, and everyone in between, is not out to ruin Mines, but perhaps improve the school.

Editorials Policy

The Oredigger is a designated public forum. Editors have the authority to make all content decisions without censorship or advance approval and may edit submitted pieces for length so long as the original meaning of the piece is unchanged. Opinions contained within the Opinion Section do not necessarily reflect those of Colorado School of Mines or The Oredigger. The Oredigger does not accept submissions without identification and will consider all requests for anonymity in publication on a case-by-case basis. Submissions less than 300 words will receive preference.

We have been uploading archived yearbooks online. Below is an excerpt from the 1959 yearbook. To see more yearbooks, go to oredig.us/1.

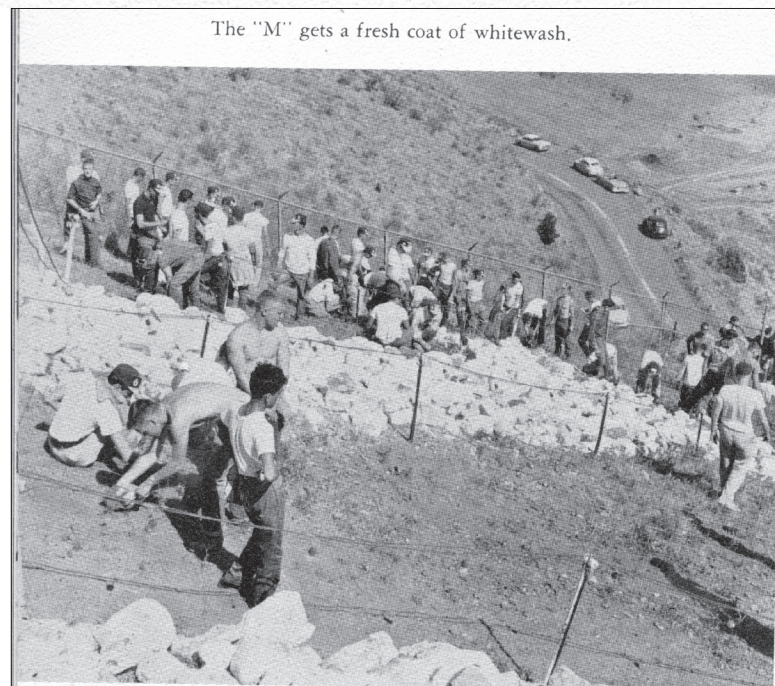
Freshman Orientation

Freshman orientation is a means of unifying the freshman class and instilling school spirit in the new Mines man. Through orientation, the frosh learns that Mines is more than just a school of books and quizzes; he learns that Mines is a school with many traditions.

One of the first activities in the orientation program is the painting of the "M." This year a new twist was added. Each frosh walked up Mt. Zion with a rock to add to the "M." Then the whitewashing was done, with the usual free-for-all ensuing.



The Frosh set off, rock in hand, for the "M."



The "M" gets a fresh coat of whitewash.

The Class of '62 manages to get at least some of the whitewash on the "M."



Some of the frosh get a "cooling off" at Kangaroo Court for violation of orientation rules.



The Class of '62 does exercises to the singing of the Mining Engineer.

Another event during orientation is Kangaroo Court, held for those frosh who break orientation rules. Later in the semester the Frosh-Soph tug-of-war is held to determine whether orientation will continue or end. This year the frosh lost the contest by default because several ambitious freshmen stole the rope. The usual water fight occurred, anyway.



Everyone gets wet at the annual Frosh-Soph tug-of-war.

Homecoming festivities kick off with parade



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